

storing traffic messages relating to a selected area received from at least one source with respect to a position related to the traffic message, wherein the traffic messages received are not limited to a route of the motor vehicle;

determining a distance between the position related to each traffic message and a position of the motor vehicle;

sorting each traffic message according to the determined distance; and

outputting the sorted traffic messages starting with a message corresponding to the shortest distance.

16. (New) A method of providing traffic information to a user comprising the steps of:

receiving traffic information for a selected area from one or more sources;

the selected area being independent of a relative position of the user;

sorting the traffic information according to a distance between a position of the user and a position corresponding to the traffic information; and

outputting the traffic information to the user in a manner relative to the distance between the position of the user and the position corresponding to the traffic information.

17. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the traffic information received is not related to a route of travel of the user.

18. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the user predetermines the selected area.

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cont.
19. (New) The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of determining a relevance of the outputted traffic information, the relevance being a factor of at least a time associated with the traffic information, and an estimated time for the user to reach an area associated with the traffic information.

20. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the time associated with the traffic information further comprises a transmission time and a duration of an event related to the traffic information.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of not displaying a traffic message where the duration of the event is less than the estimated time for the user to reach the area.

22. (New) The method of Claim 19 further comprising the step of outputting traffic messages having a relevance indicating that the user will reach the area before the time associated with the traffic information expires.